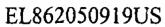CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method comprising:

receiving a trigger signal communicated from a triggering device in response to a location of a component in an automated identification system;

capturing multiple images of at least a portion of a surface of the component in response to the trigger signal, the multiple images comprising a series of images including a first image and at least one subsequent image; and

processing the multiple images to identify and read a symbol code, if any, contained within at least one or a combination of two or more of the multiple images.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein processing the multiple images comprises processing each of the multiple images in parallel with capturing a successive image, if any, in the series of images.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein capturing the multiple images comprises capturing at least one of the multiple images via an external camera coupled to the image system.

4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting an output to a coupled display to enable generation of a visual rendering of the first image or the at least one subsequent image on the display.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein a user-specified delay precedes capturing the first image, the user-specified delay having a defined duration.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein capturing each successive image in the series of images follows a user-specified interval having a defined duration.

7.   The method of claim 6, wherein the defined duration of the user-specified interval equals zero.

8.   The method of claim 6, wherein the defined duration of the user-specified interval corresponding to each successive image in the series of images is identical.

9.   The method of claim 6, wherein the defined duration of the user-specified interval corresponding to each successive image in the series of images is distinct.

10.   The method of claim 3, wherein capturing at least one of the multiple images via an external camera includes configuring the image system to receive an input from the external camera via switching to the external camera in response to user-specified criteria.

11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the user-specified criteria includes an image-capture-quantity parameter.

12.   The method of claim 10, wherein the user-specified criteria includes a time parameter.

13.   The method of claim 10, wherein capturing at least one of the multiple images via an external camera further includes configuring the image system to receive an input from an internal image sensor via switching to the internal image sensor in response to the user-specified criteria.

14.   An apparatus, comprising:

an image sensor configured to capture multiple images of at least a portion of a surface of a component in response to a trigger signal in an automated identification system, the multiple images comprising a series of images including a first image and at least one subsequent image;

a memory, coupled to the image sensor, to store the multiple images; .

a processor, coupled to the memory, to process the multiple images to identify and read a symbol code, if any, contained within at least one or a combination of two or more of the multiple images; and

an input/output interface, coupled to the processor, to receive the trigger signal.

15.   The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the input/output interface is configured to:

communicate with an external camera, the external camera capable to capture at least one image of at least a portion of the surface of the component; and

receive a signal corresponding to the at least one image from the external camera.

16.   The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the input/output interface is configured to communicate with a display to enable generation of a visual rendering of at least one of the multiple images on the display.

17.   The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the image sensor comprises a complimentary metal oxide semiconductor image sensor.

18.   An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium that provides instructions, including instructions to:

process a received trigger signal communicated from a triggering device in response to a location of a component in an automated identification system;

capture multiple images of at least a portion of a surface of the component in response to the received trigger signal, the multiple images comprising a series of images including a first image and at least one subsequent image;

store the multiple images in a memory; and

process the multiple images to identify and read a symbol code, if any, contained within at least one or a combination of two or more of the multiple images.

19.   The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the instructions to capture multiple images include instructions to implement a user-specified delay prior to capture of the first image, the user-specified delay having a defined duration.

20.   The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the defined duration equals zero.

21.   The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the instructions to capture multiple images include instructions to implement a user-specified interval following each image capture in the series of images, the user-specified interval having a defined duration.

22.   The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the defined duration equals zero.

23.   The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the defined duration of each user-specified interval is identical.

24.   The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the defined duration of each user-specified interval is distinct.

25.   The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the instructions to capture multiple images include instructions to switch between two or more sources configured to capture the multiple images.

26.   The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the instructions to switch between the two or more sources include instructions to switch from one source to another source in response to an occurrence of user-specified criteria.

27.   The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the user-specified criteria includes an image-capture-quantity parameter.

28.   The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the user-specified criteria includes a time parameter.